



Dear Parents,

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn with us. Everything else depends on it, so all the staff put as much energy as possible into making sure that every single child learns to read quickly.

We want your child to love reading – and want to read for themselves. This is why we want to make sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

How will my child be taught to read?

We start by teaching phonics as soon as your child starts school at St Breock. This means that they learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters.

The children will bring home the sounds as they learn them. Ask them to show you what these are and what sound they have been learning.

The children also practise reading (and spelling) what we call 'tricky words', such as 'once,' 'have,' 'said' and 'where'.

The children practise their reading with books that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. They start thinking that they *can* read and this does wonders for their confidence.

The teachers read to the children, too, so the children get to know all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. They learn many more words this way and it also helps their writing.

Your child will be heard to read every day in their phonics session. Class teachers are also skilled at creating other opportunities for the children to read in the classroom throughout the day, to ensure they have as much opportunity to practise their sounds as possible.

As your child moves through the school the focus on learning to read will shift towards loving to read. We will continue to immerse the children in high quality texts across the curriculum, to enhance their learning.

How will I know how well my child is doing?

We use various ways to find out how the children are getting on in reading. We use the information to decide what reading group they should be in. Your child will work with children who are at the same reading level. Children will move to a different group if they are making faster progress. Your child will have one-to-one tutoring in the classroom, if we think they need some extra help to keep up.

In the summer term, the government asks us to do a phonics check of all the Year 1 children. That gives us extra information about their progress.

We will always talk to you about how well your child is doing, and especially if we have any worries at all.

What can I do to help?

The children will be bringing home two types of books;

1. **On the third day of phonics teaching** children will bring home a 'Book Bag Book' which is linked to their phonics teaching for that week. They include many of the activities we use in school. Your child will be able to read this story to you as it will only include the sounds they have learnt. This gives them the confidence to believe they 'can' read. Repeating the reading of this story over the week will help your child to become more fluent, confident and understand what they are reading. Help your child to sound out any words they are unsure of by using the sound flash cards they have brought home.

You can hear how to say the sounds correctly at this link:

<https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/#lg=1&slide=2>

2. The children will also bring home a library book every week that they have chosen for you to read to them. Please also supplement this with books at home or from the links below. We know how busy home lives are. However, if you can find time to read to your child as much as possible, it helps them to learn about books and stories. They also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading yourself and talk about reading as a family. You can find out about good stories to read to your child here:

<https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Free e-books for home reading:

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading/>

We will not be asking you to record the celebration of your child's reading anywhere, just enjoy celebrating your child's success and immerse yourselves in stories together. We trust that you will want to be supporting your child with their progress in reading by doing this every evening.

We have attached two booklets, which have further information on supporting your child at home.

All this information is also available under the Reading Together section on our website, which you will find under Parents. Please find a link to this below.

[St Breock Primary School](#)

As ever we are here to support you to support your child. Please come and talk to us if you have any questions.

Kind Regards

Mrs Hall - Head of School

Mrs Merrick– Phonics Lead

Miss Barker & Mrs Keightley - FS2 Teachers

Miss Moine – Y1 Teacher